

BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, May 7, 2012, for the purpose of reviewing the Public Safety section of the Proposed FY 2013 Budget.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. It was held in the Conference Room at the Police Station.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; and Chief James Craze, Capts. Tom Kemp, Carl Schinner and Dan O'Neil, Lts. Jim Parker and John Barrett, Michael Apgar, Tim White, Scott Yankow, Scott Kaiser and Mike Dewey, Police Department.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Ken Stair, GVFDERS; Ken Silberman, Sylvia Lewis, Laura Kressler, Molly Lester, Bill Orleans, and Dianne Oberg, News Review

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad (GVFDERS)

Ken Stair, President GVFDERS, reported that the kitchen renovation had been completed in 2011. He noted that the hall windows and public address system had been replaced. Mr. Stair stated that ambulance billing had generated significant revenue. He stated that the 1999 pumper now needed to be replaced in 2013.

Mayor Davis requested statistics for the Berwyn Heights and West Lanham Hills fire departments.

Mr. Jordan asked about the percentage of ambulance billings that are paid. Mr. Stair responded that about 25% of bills are paid. Mr. Stair discussed the ambulance billing program. Mr. Herling asked about the ambulance billing balance. Mr. Stair noted they had a balance of \$237,000 and anticipated receiving approximately \$100,000 per year.

Mayor Davis asked if notification of fire calls to the Police Department had been improved. Mr. Stair and Chief Craze responded that it had.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Contribution

Mr. Silberman reported that CERT was trying to help out with activities. He reported there were 10-12 active members. Mayor Davis asked about budget proposal and specifically the maintenance line. Mr. Silberman responded that maintenance funds were needed for a trailer ball, generator maintenance and other items.

Mayor Davis requested an updated inventory of the CERT trailer.

Police Department

Chief Craze presented a powerpoint presentation. Council then reviewed the Public Safety section of the budget. Mayor Davis asked about the cooperation between the City and the States Attorney's office. Capt. Schinner responded that they worked closely together.

Mr. Jordan requested a response time report based on beat. Mayor Davis requested a red light report. Ms. Mach asked about the drop in calls for service. Chief Craze responded that the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system tracked calls differently.

Mr. Herling asked how many officers had taken "survival Spanish". Capt. O'Neil responded that all officers had taken it as a result of in-service training requirements.

There was discussion about vacant apartment sweeps. Cpl. White reported on these sweeps at Franklin Park.

Mayor Davis asked about the decrease in bike patrols. Capt. Schinner responded that bike training was occurring soon. Mr. Jordan asked about foot patrols. Capt. Schinner indicated that officers went on foot patrol when available.

Mayor Davis asked about the COPS grant. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the City didn't apply due to funding formula changes.

Mr. Jordan asked about traffic enforcement and pedestrian safety at the Metro station. Chief Craze noted problems with the crosswalk on Cherrywood Lane near the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Mayor Davis asked about School Resource Officer (SRO) Funding from the County. Mr. McLaughlin responded that there was \$80,000 in the County's budget. Mayor Davis asked about active neighborhood watch groups. Capt. Kemp responded that "old Greenbelt" was the most active.

Mr. Jordan asked about evidence storage. Lt. Barrett responded that the City purged evidence when it was no longer needed. He stated there was evidence going back to 1960's and 70's.

Mr. Jordan asked about efforts to recruit minorities. Chief Craze noted the first African-American female hire and responded this was a priority for the Department. Lt. Barrett, Lt. Parker and Capt. Schinner reported based on their CALEA experience that this was a problem nationwide.

There was discussion about the vehicle fleet and using hybrids. It was noted that there aren't any police rated hybrid vehicles.

Capt. O'Neil presented a recommendation that Council apply for a grant to add three toughbooks. Council agreed to allow the Department to apply and place it on the consent agenda.

Mayor Davis reported on the comments she had received while door knocking.

The meeting ended at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*